

Reports From Havana:

Say Ransom Goods Sent on to Russia

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Much of the medical supplies paid by the United States as ransom for 1113 Cuban invasion prisoners are aboard the Russian ship Admiral Nahimov, bound for the Soviet Union, responsible exile sources claim.

These exiles say they received a phone call from Havana by a close relative of one of Castro's top lieutenants describing the equipment loaded aboard the 16,000-ton Nahimov, a former German passenger ship.

It included, mainly, high-priced X-ray equipment, dental surgical chairs, operating tables, and other surgical equipment, according to the informant.

The exile sources say they do not know how much of the \$53 million worth of medical equipment sent to Cuba was shipped on to the Soviet Union. But they report that some of the X-ray equipment was valued at \$300,000.

The story, according to the report from Havana, is that when the goods and supplies were unloaded from the African Pilot—the U. S. ship that carried the ransom supplies to Cuba—most of the large equipment was immediately transferred from the Auxiliar Maritima dock to the nearby Adm. Nahimov.

The transfer was made, according to the exiles, on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

CONFIRMED

Since Fidel Castro asked for medicine and medical equipment as ransom for the invasion prisoners, it has been confirmed that the Soviet Union has been unable to supply Cuba with these important necessities.

Part of the ransom fee, according to lawyer James Donovan, who negotiated with Castro, was ten doses of a scarce medicine needed to save the life of the child of a top Cuban official.

The Russians were again unable to provide the needed medicine.

According to the exiles, the badly needed medicine was for the son of Regino Boti, Cuba's economic minister and 1943 graduate of Harvard University. The medicine the Russians couldn't get for Boti, according to the exiles, was obtained by Mr. Donovan from Walter Reed Hospital.

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